

REMARKS

Claims 1-10, 12-16 and 18-26 are pending. Claims 1 and 6-9 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 10, 16 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Tanio, U.S. Patent 5,726,778. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites “a memory for storing correction data relating to combinations of the image reader and image forming apparatus.” Tanio does not disclose this feature. Although Tanio does disclose color conversion tables (see Fig. 14), the information stored in these tables does not relate to a combination of the image reader and image forming apparatus. Rather, the first two tables store information relating to the input device, and the second two tables store information relating to output device. The information in the first two tables does not relate in any way to the information in the second two tables either. Thus, Tanio never stores any information relating to the *combination* of an input device and an output device.

Claim 1 further recites “correcting image data output from an image reader using the correction data relating to a specific combination of image reader and image forming apparatus and for outputting the corrected data to an image forming apparatus.” Applicant respectfully submits that Tanio also fails to teach or suggest this feature. Specifically, Tanio does not use correction data relating to a specific **combination** of image reader and image forming apparatus. As stated above, the information stored in the tables in shown in Fig. 14 either relate to the input unit or the output unit, but does not relate to a combination of input and output units. Thus, since information relating to the combination of the input and output devices is never stored, it cannot be said that Tanio corrects image data using correction data relating to a specific combination of image reader and image forming apparatus, as claimed.

In accordance with the foregoing, the features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Tanio.

Claim 10 is allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 1. Claims 16 and 21 recite the same features discussed above in connection with claim 1, and are therefore allowable for the reasons set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanio. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2 and 3 are allowable at least due to its dependency from claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 4-6, 18 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanio as applied to either claim 1, claim 16 or claim 21, and further in view of Ichikawa, U.S. Patent 5,717,839. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4-6, 18 and 22 are allowable at least due to the fact that the features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Tanio and that Ichikawa also fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 19 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanio as applied to claims 1, 16 or 21, and further in view of Harrington, U.S. Patent 6,178,007. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7, 19 and 23 are allowable at least due to the fact that the features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Tanio and that Harrington also fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanio and further in view of Falk, U.S. Patent No. 5,760,913. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

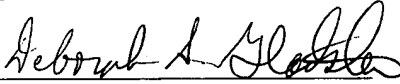
Claim 26 is allowable at least due to the fact that the features of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Tanio and that Falk also fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1 discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772007400.

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